

REMARKS

This Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination and addresses the issues outstanding from the final Office Action dated August 6, 2003.

As a preliminary matter, Counsel wishes to acknowledge with appreciation the recent interview with Examiner Abraham. The substance of the interview is incorporated in these Remarks.

The Examiner's previous indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 34-37 is duly noted. As pointed out at the interview, Claim 33 includes the feature that the switch elements include field effect transistors not used for the input circuit among the field effect transistors for input/output circuits. See the final paragraph of Claim 33. As a similar feature is found in the final paragraph of allowed Claim 34, it is believed that Claim 33 should have been allowed with Claims 34-37.

Regarding Claims 22-26, it is noted that the Office Action Summary listed those claims as being objected to, whereas the body of the Office Action stated that the Claims were rejected for alleged indefiniteness with no particulars having been given. See page 4 of the Office Action. It is respectfully requested that the status of Claims 22-26 be clarified in the next official communication.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), independent Claims 1, 7-14, 28-32, and 39-42

have been amended in consideration of the discussions at the interview. With a view toward enhancing clarity, the amendments adopt language slightly different from that originally proposed for discussion. In particular, Claims 1, 7-12, 28-32, and 39-42 have been revised to recite that the switching FET's are not used in performing logic operations of a logic circuit. Claim 13 has been amended to recite that the switch elements include basic cell portions not used in performing logic operations of a logic circuit. Claim 14 has been amended to recite that the switch elements are not used in performing logic operations of a logic circuit.

Referring to Figs. 36-37 of Akaogi, which were cited as the basis for the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), it is evident that the drive unit 247, including transistors 248 and 249, performs a logic change operation. See column 27, lines 57-59. Accordingly, the cited Akaogi teachings would not have suggested Applicant's invention, at least as presently claimed, to one of ordinary skill in the art.

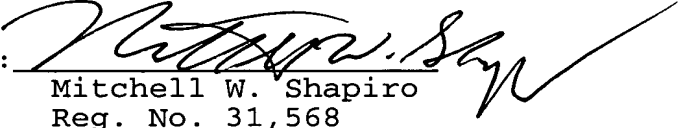
It is therefore respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection on Akaogi be withdrawn and that this application be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is

required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully requested,

By:


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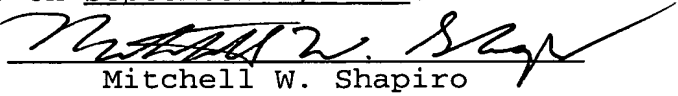
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September 7, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 7, 2004.


Mitchell W. Shapiro